

Carjacking Prevention

- * Be aware. When you are out in public, be aware of your surroundings.

- * Choose well-lighted, well-traveled facilities. If you are stopping to use a public facility such as a pay phone or gas station, try to park in a well-lighted place.

- * When returning home, be aware of all vehicles and pedestrians. Keep your house and driveway well lighted. Beep your horn, and have someone inside turn on lights or open the door.

- * When driving in a potentially risky area, use the middle lane. Don't allow yourself to be pinned against the curb at a light or stop sign. Leave enough space between cars at a red light or stop sign to pull away if necessary.

- * Don't be distracted by eating, drinking or talking while driving. Losing your focus on the road and your surroundings could make you an easy target.

- * Be careful after a minor rear-end accident. If you are bumped from behind and you do not feel comfortable exiting your vehicle, motion to the other driver and drive to the nearest police station, 24-hour store, hospital or fire station.

- * Keep your vehicle locked and, if practical, the windows rolled up.

- * When approaching your parked car, have your car keys in your hand. Check

the surrounding area for suspicious persons near your car or following you.

If you see a suspicious person, do not attempt to get in your car but walk to the nearest public place and call for help.

- * Don't make yourself even more attractive as a victim by leaving your purse or other valuables in view while you're driving.

- * Plan your route in advance and know something about the area you'll be driving through. There are some areas that aren't safe, day or night.

- * A reminder for general safety: Always keep your car well maintained and make sure you have plenty of gas. You don't want to become stranded in a dark, unfamiliar or questionable area, and thus vulnerable to other types of crime.

- * If you are forced to pull over due to mechanical problems, be wary of people who stop and offer help.

- * Keep your house keys on a separate ring from your car keys.

- * Never write your home address on your house or car keys.

- * Never roll down your window to answer questions of passersby. This could be a pretext for a gunman to take your vehicle.

- * The most important rule is; if a gunman wants your car, give it up.